



**Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554**

WT Docket No. 11-65

May 26, 2011

Dear FCC Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The National Caucus & Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA) is dedicated to preserving the dignity and enhancing the lives of low income elderly African Americans. As one of the largest minority focused organizations in the United States, NCBA works to address the issues that impact the quality of life for America's elderly minority population.

The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile cuts across multiple issues of interest to the NCBA, especially since mobile phones are now integral to locating resources related to health, affordable housing and employment in both urban and especially in rural areas. The NCBA sees mobile phones as tools that empower and enhance the lives of low income elderly African Americans. With fully functioning smartphones these seniors can forgo traditional equipment-intensive landline broadband connections in favor of less expensive wireless broadband connections. More importantly, with expanded access to a powerful wireless broadband network seniors in rural and remote areas can access telehealth applications, online employment information and applications and housing information, including sites providing government assistance.

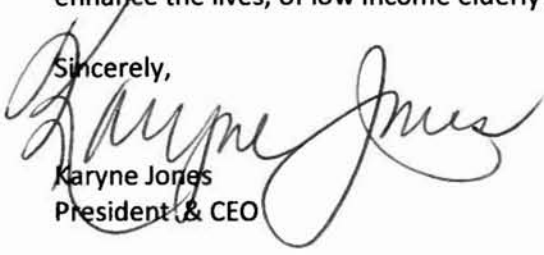
The merger will help provide more of our members access to affordable and portable wireless broadband, as the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will expand the geographic reach of wireless broadband to millions more Americans. This will enable all seniors, including rural seniors, to realize the full benefits of the most advanced technology the wireless industry has to offer. As a result of this merger wireless phones will become easier to use as they will be faster and there will be fewer data and voice disruptions to distract users. Additionally, phones operating on the combined AT&T and T-Mobile network will benefit from expanded access to wireless broadband in rural communities meaning that more low income elderly African Americans will be able to access an advanced wireless broadband network. This is an important consideration given the relatively low adoption of home broadband connections by people over the age of 65 – only 42% of seniors over 65 use the internet at home according to a Pew Internet and American Life Infographic published in September of 2010.

While many seniors do not currently see the value of having wireless broadband, or even a mobile phone, the opportunities that come with a wireless broadband connection can be particularly beneficial to the elderly. Wireless broadband enables seniors to use remote telemedicine applications that allow patients to see doctors from anywhere, to search for affordable housing and take advantage of special government programs, and to seek and apply for employment, all from the convenience of a mobile phone.

NCBA believes the merging of AT&T and T-Mobile's networks will result in more elderly African Americans connecting to wireless broadband and availing themselves of all it has to offer. Moreover, the new network will be faster, more reliable, and more user friendly, encouraging more elderly African Americans to become a part of the wireless revolution no matter their location. While the number of low income elderly African Americans using wireless broadband may be paltry, the number of users is sure to grow. Furthermore we believe the number of low income elderly African Americans will begin to shrink due to increased opportunities provided by wireless broadband access.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, NCBA believes the Federal Communications Commission must look upon the AT&T and T-Mobile merger in a favorable light as it will help preserve the dignity, and enhance the lives, of low income elderly African Americans.

Sincerely,



Karyne Jones
President & CEO